Alexandria City Public Schools

PreK-8 Analysis Update



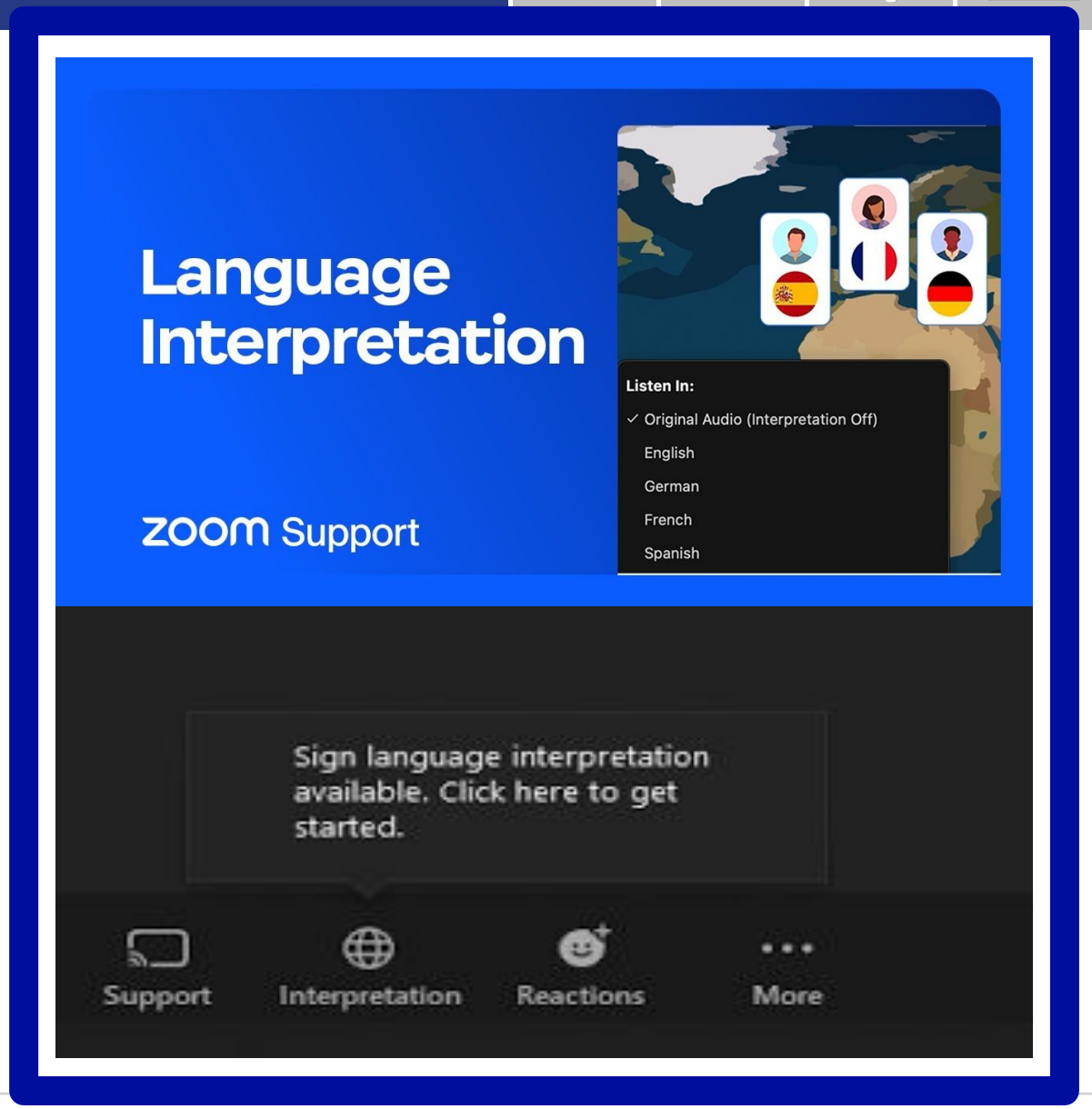
School/Family Community Meetings
November 19-21, 2024

Welcome!

Interpretation services are available for your convenience this evening.

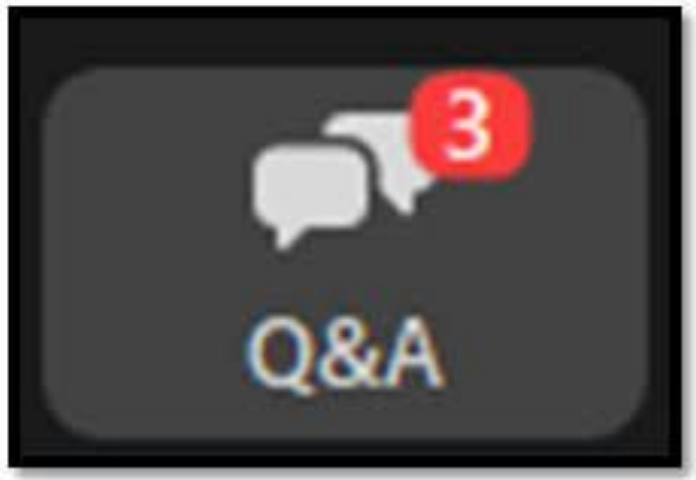
- You will see a globe icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen, labeled 'Interpretation.' If you are on a mobile device, you may need to tap the screen to see this option.
- Click or tap the globe icon, and a list of available languages will appear.
- Choose your preferred language from the list by clicking or tapping on it.
- Once you select your language, you will only hear the interpreter speaking in that language.

We will begin interpretation services in one moment.



Questions During The Webinar?

- If you have any questions during the webinar please add them using the Q&A button.
- All questions will be answered at the end of today's presentation.



Essential Questions

- How can the findings from the PreK-8 Analysis, community feedback, and division-wide data on redistricting, finance, and operations guide instructional improvements and strategic decision-making?

Shared Understandings Regarding ACPS School Board Decision-Making

- The decision regarding the future of the PreK/K-8 schools will be made by the ACPS School Board.
- **The ACPS School Board has NOT made a decision at this time.**
- The ACPS School Board will make an informed decision based three distinct data points: **human, fiscal, and programmatic impact.**
- **Redistricting data, budget projections, and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)** are also key data points that the ACPS School Board will use to make an informed decision.



2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

Continuous Community Engagement



Continuous School/Community Engagement

- Community engagement meetings will occur during the month of November to continuously engage and update school staff and families at the following schools:
  - Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 School
  - Patrick Henry K-8 School
  - George Washington Middle School
  - Francis C. Hammond Middle School
  - Alexandria City High School
  - Division-wide meeting for all elementary families



- Engagement will continue with school staff and families throughout the redistricting process.

2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

Summary of Staff and Community Feedback



Overview Of The Seven Models

Models	Description
Model 1	Patrick Henry & Jefferson-Houston remain PreK/K-8s, with improvements
Model 2	Patrick Henry & Jefferson-Houston become PreK/K-5s; 6-8 students go to George Washington or Francis C. Hammond
Model 3	Patrick Henry & Jefferson-Houston become PreK/K-5s; a new middle school is opened at 1703 Beauregard St.
Model 4	Patrick Henry & Jefferson-Houston become middle schools; their K-5 students go to existing K-5 schools
Model 5	One PreK/K-8 becomes a 6-8 middle school, the other a K-5 elementary school
Model 6	Patrick Henry & Jefferson-Houston remain PreK/K-8s, an additional school to be identified to become a K-8 school, 1703 Beauregard St. becomes a new middle school
Model 7	Patrick Henry & Jefferson-Houston remain PreK/K-8s, an additional school to be identified to become a K-8 school, a new middle school is proposed/constructed, and 1703 Beauregard St. becomes available to expand K-5 capacity

Survey Results Disclaimer

- Post survey results provide an additional data point.
- Data points that should still be considered include:
  - Redistricting Impact
  - Impact On The CIP Budget
- The analysis must consider the ***human, fiscal, and programmatic impact***.
- The post survey results should not be perceived or interpreted as the final or selected model.



PreK-8 Post Survey Overview and Top Factors In Decision Making

Model 1 was the top selected model among staff and families.

- Patrick Henry & Jefferson-Houston remain PreK/K-8s, with improvements

Summary of Top Factors In Decision Making

- Building Capacity
- Convenience of Location Of The Identified Option
- Quality of Educational Programming

2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

Proposed Action Plan For Addressing Instructional Insights



Proposed Action Plan For Addressing Instructional Insights

- **Increasing Student Achievement**
  - The Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership in collaboration with Accountability and Research, and Student Services currently implements a school improvement process focused on:
    - School Improvement Plan Implementation
    - Instructional Walkthroughs
    - School Monitoring Meetings
    - Quarterly Chats



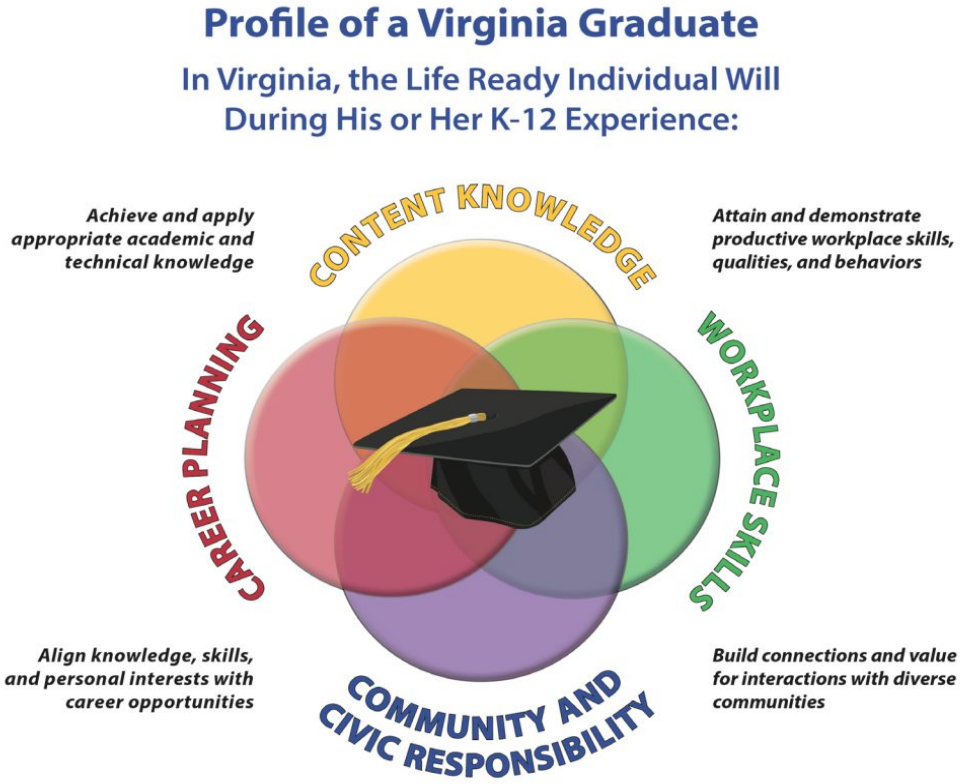


Action Plan For Addressing Instructional Insights

- **Evaluate Instructional Programming**
  - ***2024-2025 School Year***
    - Evaluate the viability of the IB program **(JH Only).**
    - Use the ACPS Profile of a Learner Model established during the development of the High School Project to align curriculum, assessment, and instructional practices.
    - Evaluate the feasibility of adding additional elective options at the PreK-8 level.



ACPS Profile Of A Learner





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Deeper Dive Into Division-Wide Impact



RESULTS-DRIVEN

ACPS Student Enrollment Dashboard Data

ACPS Student Enrollment Data

At Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), we are committed to maintaining transparency by providing our community with up-to-date information about student enrollment across our school division. To support this effort, we have developed the Student Membership (Enrollment) Dashboard. This dashboard will be a valuable resource for students, staff, families and community members, offering a comprehensive view of our student enrollment data.

Throughout the school year, you will be able to access the following information:

- ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL
- AVERAGE ELEMENTARY HOMEROOM CLASS SIZE
- FALL MEMBERSHIP (ENROLLMENT) REPORTS
- ENROLLMENT DASHBOARD
- REDISTRICTING WEBPAGE

Current Enrollment By Impacted Schools

School	Current Enrollment
Jefferson- Houston PreK-8 School	498
Patrick Henry K-8 School	1039
James K. Polk Elementary School	771
William Ramsay Elementary School	690
Francis C. Hammond Middle School	1577
George Washington Middle School	1442
Alexandria City High School (All campuses)	4665

Projected Capacity Utilization (w/ K-8 Schools)

	Projected 2025	Projected 2026	Projected 2027	Projected 2028	Projected 2029	Projected 2030
6th Grade	1,211	1,109	1,168	1,113	1,106	1,142
7th Grade	1,074	1,168	1,125	1,149	1,070	1,065
8th Grade	1,076	1,071	1,213	1,142	1,140	1,058
Total	3,361	3,348	3,506	3,404	3,316	3,265
Projected Capacity Utilization	112%	112%	117%	114%	111%	109%

	Projected 2025	Projected 2026	Projected 2027	Projected 2028	Projected 2029	Projected 2030
PK	405	405	405	405	405	405
K	1,271	1,301	1,200	1,283	1,149	1,181
1	1,451	1,307	1,339	1,307	1,307	1,181
2	1,302	1,386	1,251	1,341	1,230	1,250
3	1,370	1,286	1,367	1,310	1,325	1,217
4	1,223	1,335	1,251	1,391	1,274	1,290
5	1,218	1,191	1,302	1,312	1,358	1,243
Total ES	8,240	8,211	8,115	8,349	8,048	7,767
Projected Capacity Utilization	93%	91%	89%	91%	88%	85%

Notes: FY 2024 Enrollment Projection
Ideal Capacity Utilization is between 90-110%

Projected Capacity Utilization
PH becomes MS & JH becomes ES

	Projected 2025	Projected 2026	Projected 2027	Projected 2028	Projected 2029	Projected 2030
6th Grade	1,211	1,109	1,168	1,113	1,106	1,142
7th Grade	1,074	1,168	1,125	1,149	1,070	1,065
8th Grade	1,076	1,071	1,213	1,142	1,140	1,058
Total	3,361	3,348	3,506	3,404	3,316	3,265
Projected Capacity Utilization	99%	98%	103%	100%	98%	96%

	Projected 2025	Projected 2026	Projected 2027	Projected 2028	Projected 2029	Projected 2030
PK	405	405	405	405	405	405
K	1,271	1,301	1,200	1,283	1,149	1,181
1	1,451	1,307	1,339	1,307	1,307	1,181
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Projected Capacity Utilization	103%	100%	99%	101%	97%	94%

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Projected Capacity Utilization
JH becomes MS & PH becomes ES

	Projected 2025	Projected 2026	Projected 2027	Projected 2028	Projected 2029	Projected 2030
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8th Grade	1,076	1,071	1,213	1,142	1,140	1,058
Total	3,361	3,348	3,506	3,404	3,316	3,265
Projected Capacity Utilization	102%	102%	107%	104%	101%	100%

	Projected 2025	Projected 2026	Projected 2027	Projected 2028	Projected 2029	Projected 2030
PK	405	405	405	405	405	405
K	1,271	1,301	1,200	1,283	1,149	1,181
1	1,451	1,307	1,339	1,307	1,307	1,181
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Projected Capacity Utilization	102%	98%	97%	99%	96%	92%

Notes: FY 2024 Enrollment Projection
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K-8 Cost Analysis
Comparing Model 2 and 5 to Model 1

The current cost to operate our **K-8 Schools** is estimated to be **$5.5M (Model 1).**

- If both schools became elementary schools the division would save an **estimated $5.5M** *(This would increase the capacity utilization of GW and FCH)* **(Model 2).**
- If **Patrick Henry became a middle school** and **Jefferson Houston an elementary school** the division would save an **estimated $5.3M (Model 5).**
- If **Jefferson Houston became a middle school** and **Patrick Henry an elementary school** the division would save an **estimated $5.8M (Model 5).**

2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

Impact On The Capital Improvement Program Budget



Impact on CIP- Newly Constructed Middle School

- **High Initial Cost**: A significant budget impact with an average estimated cost of $130 million, straining existing CIP funds.
- **Funding Sources**: Need to identify potential funding sources, including bonds, grants, or reallocating funds from other projects.
- **Long-Term Financial Commitment**: Increased operational costs, including staffing, maintenance, and utilities for the new facility.
- **Potential for Cost Overruns**: Large projects often exceed initial estimates due to inflation, supply chain issues, or unforeseen expenses.
- **Impact on Other Projects**: Potential delays or reductions in funding for other critical infrastructure projects within the CIP.
- **Community Expectations**: Increased public demand for quality facilities may require additional investments in enhancements beyond the initial budget.
- **Lack of Available Land**: Space for fields and outdoor space is a priority for Middle Schools. None of the allocated land for ACPS would be suitable for a Middle School.

Impact on CIP-1703 Conversion to Middle School

- **Limited Utilization Improvement**: Conversion may not effectively address overall middle school capacity and utilization issues in the division
- **Renovation Costs**: Additional costs associated with retrofitting the existing building to meet middle school standards, which may be significant.
- **Operational Budget Strain**: Ongoing operational costs for a converted facility that may not alleviate overutilization in other middle schools.
- **Short-Term Solution**: May be viewed as a temporary fix rather than a sustainable solution for middle school needs in the area.
- **Future Budget Planning**: Need to plan for future middle school capacity issues that remain unaddressed, potentially leading to further expenditures down the line.
- **Site Challenges:** 1703 N. Beauregard does not have a field or readily available alternative space for Middle School recreation

2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

Redistricting Timeline



ACPS School Boundary Redistricting

https://www.acps.k12.va.us/school-board/acps-redistricting

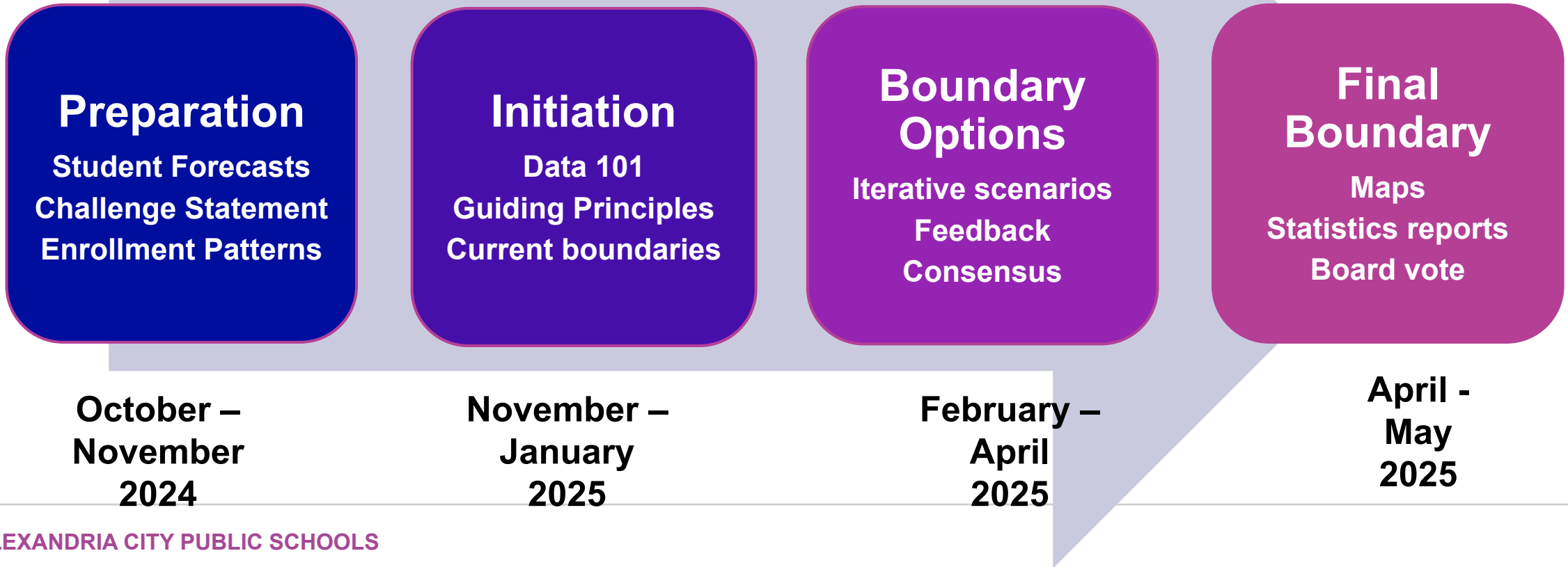
ACPS School Boundary Redistricting

In June 2023, the Alexandria City School Board took steps to initiate a division-wide redistricting process by conducting a boundary analysis in accordance with ACPS policy JCE. According to policy JCE, ACPS will conduct a boundary analysis every five years or with the opening of a new school. ACPS' last redistricting process was in 2018 and the Douglas MacArthur Elementary School opened in the Fall of 2023. The summary of findings of the boundary analysis assisted the School Board with voting to go through the redistricting process. The Board subsequently retired Policy JCE to prepare for an updated version supporting the planned redistricting. The retired policy is available on Electronic School Board.

The findings of the boundary analysis revealed the following:

- More ACPS schools currently have live-in utilizations outside of the ideal range which will continue to exacerbate class-size discrepancies and increase capacity reassignments.
- ACPS has to be proactive in planning for future development across the City of Alexandria in boundaries that are already over capacity.
- Modernization of new schools will create capacity and ACPS should optimize this use.
- Demographic discrepancies exist in some schools that deviate from the division-wide demographics.

Redistricting Process - MGT Consultants Timeline



ACPS School Boundary Redistricting Timeline

Timeline

Time	Activity
December 2023	First redistricting meeting
January 2024 - July 2024 (6 months)	Select vendor through RFP to support scope of work
August 2024 - May 2025 (9 months)	Develop options, gather community feedback and stakeholder input
June 2025 - December 2025 (6 months)	Recommendations for School Board vote
January 2026 - July 2026 (6 months)	Families notified of impact on their student
August 2026 - June 2027	New school boundaries for implementation during the 2026-27 school year

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Staff and Community Submitted Questions



Staff and Community Submitted Questions

- **Is the timeline for this decision expected to align with the redistricting analysis that the school board is currently analyzing? (The point of my question is to understand if the impact of this decision will impact all elementary and middle schools).**
  - **The decision will be made in collaboration with the redistricting process.**
- **How will ACPS/Alexandria City use the K8 study recommendations to guide the redistricting process? Specifically, the nationwide recommendations by the vendor that a middle school not exceed 900 students and that schools plan for a utilization rate max of 90% for elementary schools and 80-85% for middle/high schools?**
  - **The recommendations and utilization rates will be taken into consideration through the redistricting process.**

Staff and Community Submitted Questions

- If we combine both schools. What will happen to JH preschool and Head Start?
    - This decision will be made through the redistricting process. If there are any changes, students will be assigned to the PreK/Head Start location closest to their home.
- If teachers are displaced at other schools. Will we have the choice on where we want to go?
    - Movement of staff to different work locations is done in collaboration with Human Resources
- If schools are combined and with our transportation shortage. Will there be enough transportation for those who were neighborhood walkers and now bus riders?
    - Transportation needs will be assessed and determined through the redistricting process.

Staff and Community Submitted Questions

- **Why were the ramifications of redistricting not studied during this year-long analysis? It seems like a lot of time and resources were spent to not come to some type of conclusion, other than "More time is needed to explore the impact of redistributing school zones." Also, if ACPS is in need of more land to build a new elementary or middle school or both, why were the sites at Minnie Howard's old campus and the temporary location for Douglas MacArthur (in front of Patrick Henry) repurposed for athletic fields? It seems like the land in both spots could have been used for actual school buildings.**
  - **The K-8 and redistricting process each examines two different sets of data.**
  - **The K-8 analysis looked specifically at human, fiscal, and programmatic impacts related specifically to K-8 schools.**
  - **The redistricting process looks at the entire division and its impact on ALL schools.**

Staff and Community Submitted Questions

- **I would like to learn more about the original analysis that convinced ACPS to create PK-8 schools model and how this new analysis convincingly contradicts that expert recommendation.**



  - **The data from the two previous studies was from 2011 (13 years ago) and 2018 (6 years ago).**
  - **The new analysis did not provide a contraction because it did not provide recommendation, it simply presented current data.**
  - **Despite the implementation of two K-8 Schools there are areas that still must be addressed to include:**
    - **Increasing enrollment**
    - **Overutilization**
    - **Continuous improvement of student outcomes**
  - **Grade Level Feasibility Study By Hanover Research -** https://alexandria.ic-board.com/attachments/9e18f98c-643a-4ca3-a603-1e9167ae36b9.pdf

Staff and Community Submitted Questions

- **ACPS is in need of more land to add another high school since building more middle schools will not solve the problem because all of the middle schoolers will end up in ACHS and Minnie Howard. If he ramifications of redistricting zone schools will require at least a new middle schools are being built, will they have about the same amount of programs including electives as our two big middle schools?**

  - **If a new comprehensive middle school is built or developed, it will have the same and/or similar resources as the larger comprehensive middle schools.**

Staff and Community Submitted Questions

- **What is this about? The online announcement/call for questions was completely unclear!!!!**

PF

PreK-8 Analysis Update Meeting- November 20 and 21- 6:00pm - Zoom

Pierrette Finney • 5 days ago • Wednesday, Nov 13 at 9:00 AM • **Francis C. Hammond Middle School**



Dear ACPS Families and Community Members,

Families and community members are invited to attend an update meeting on the post-survey analysis presented to the Alexandria City School Board regarding the PreK-8 Analysis. To ensure that families have flexibility in accessing the meeting, we will hold an update meeting on two evenings. The meetings will take place on Wed., Nov. 20, and Thur., Nov. 21 at 6 p.m. The same presentation will be presented each evening. Interpretation in Spanish, Arabic, Amharic, and Dari will be provided. Zoom information for the Pre-K-8 Analysis Community Meeting can be found at this link.

The PreK–8 Analysis was originally presented to the school board on Sept. 19, 2024, which detailed a high-level comparison of seven proposed models across common variables, including an overview of each model, key findings, human impact, programmatic impact, facilities impact, operational impact, capital impact, and implementation timeline. On Oct. 24, 2024, a post-analysis summary was presented that detailed staff and community feedback, instructional insights, and a deeper analysis of division impact on school boundary redistricting, comparative cost analysis, and the Capital Improvement Program budget. The findings from the post-survey and deeper analysis will be shared during each community meeting.

To ensure that we tailor the presentation to community questions, we will accept questions in advance by completing the PreK-8 Community Meeting Questions Form. We will also answer questions during the meeting.

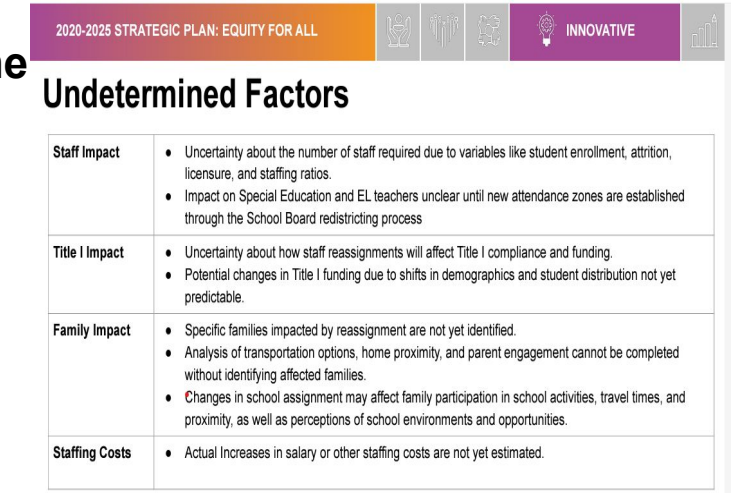
Staff and Community Submitted Questions

- **What is this about? The online announcement/call for questions was completely unclear!!!!**
  - **https://www..k12.va.us/academics/prek-8-analysis (May 2024-Present)**



Staff and Community Submitted Questions

- **I've read that it's been proposed to make Jefferson-Houston into a middle school and Patrick Henry into an elementary school. This goes against the findings of the research report that was presented earlier and will have a terrible impact on the teachers who will become concerned about their jobs. The teachers and parents have been working to build community and trust with the students.**
  - **September 19 and October 24 School Board Meetings - Detailed undetermined factors.**
  - **No decision has been made at this time.**
  - **The findings have remained consistent across all three studies - Increasing enrollment, Overutilization, and continuous improvement of student outcomes.**
  - **Data from a variety of sources has been presented to include the K-8 student, budget projections, and CIP projections.**
  - **Redistricting is a key data point that must be considered.**
  - **The final decision will consider three factors: human, fiscal, and programmatic.**



Staff and Community Submitted Questions

- **Can you please advise on how this decision will support the students, teachers and community?**

  - **No decision has been made at this time.**
  - **As with previous studies, any decision implemented will seek to address to the extent possible:**
    - **Overutilization**
    - **Increasing enrollment**
    - **Improved student outcomes**
    - **Impact on students, staff, and families**

2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

Providing Additional Feedback



Ways To Provide Feedback

- Communication and collaboration will be ongoing with staff and families.
- Any additional feedback can be emailed to any of the following:
  - Ask@acps.k12.va.us
  - School Board Contact Form - https://www.acps.k12.va.us/school-board/contact-the-school-board



Your Feedback Matters!

- You can provide feedback immediately.
- A feedback link will be shared after this meeting.
- You may also scan the QR Code to access the google form.

Alexandria City Public Schools

Questions?

Dr. Pierrette Finney, Chief Academic Officer

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